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NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

The Last Census and Its Bearing on Crime.—Fully 50 per cent. of the crimes committed in the United States and Europe are due to drunkenness; about 20 per cent. in this country are actually committed in the saloons. Of white offenders 47 per cent. belong to the laboring-classes and servants; but only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to the professional and clerical order; 27 per cent. were credited to the manufacturing and mechanical trades. The agricultural and professional portions were more addicted to major offenses; the laboring classes, to lesser forms. The largest proportion of offenses against the person was found in rural sections; against property, in the professional, clerical, and official ranks. The burden of crimes was committed by those who live near "the want line."—August Drahts, *Pop. Sci. Mo.*, October, 1900. E. S. B.

Statistics of Divorce.—The divorce-rate based on total population was two and five-eighths times as great in 1905 in the United States as it was in 1870. Five married couples out of 1,000 were being divorced annually in 1905; one and one-half, in 1870. The rate is highest in the western states. The United States leads the world; Switzerland ranks next, but with a divorce-rate less than one-half as great. In regard to the number of divorces granted, actors rank highest, then musicians and teachers of music, commercial travelers, telegraph and telephone operators, physicians and surgeons. Agricultural laborers rank lowest; then, clergymen, draymen and teamsters, blacksmiths, farmers.—J. A. Hill, *Amer. Stat. Assoc.*, June, 1909. E. S. B.

Ethics and Politics.—The laws of ethics sometimes seem to conflict with those of politics. On occasions, laws become external commands to seek ends which to the individual seem unethical. The individual may choose to stand for a new doctrine which he believes to be reconstructive; he bases his claim to obey his conscience on the progressive character of society. The state may decide to suppress the new doctrine as dangerous. Both of the antagonistic views may be right; but experience will test their truth. The fact of progress involves a degree of relativity for ethics. Ethics may justify the individual in standing his ground until the actual security of the state is endangered, but at that point he must remember that since the state protects life, and since it therefore makes the ethical life possible, the cases where disobedience would be "the greater loyalty" are exceedingly rare.—R. M. MacIver, *Inter. Jour. of Eth.*, October, 1908. E. S. B.

La génération consciente.—The partisans of both repopulation and depopulation are partly right and partly wrong; the former right in deploring the excessive fear of paternity and the practices "contre nature," which lead to voluntary sterility; wrong in their preoccupation with quantity instead of with quality—the latter, right in their suspicion of the blind production of elements of disease, misery, and vice; wrong in preaching a general limitation of births, instead of a limitation of a bad quality of births. It must be remembered that in diminishing the causes of energy, activity, constancy, and emulation, which children represent, the general good is decreased, that no real and honest satisfaction is possible without some material or moral effort.—F. Passy, *Jour. des économistes*, September, 1909. F. F.

Causes de décadences des peuples modernes.—With a decrease in productivity, a lessening of resources through war and through useless expenses of governments and of private individuals, with a consequent decrease in population, the decadence of modern nations will begin.—G. de Molinari, *Jour. des économistes*, September, 1909. F. F.

Criminalité et tatouage.—The relation between criminality and tattooing is neither a cause-and-effect relation nor a quantitative one, that is, the majority

of delinquents being drawn from the mass of the population which practices tattooing, it is natural that many criminals are tattooed. But there can exist a relation between the quality of the tattooing and criminality. Tattooing itself is merely a manifestation of a coarse, primitive, but still normal make-up, while only certain forms of tattooing reveal in the person an abnormal make-up as well.—H. Léale, *Archives d'anthropol. criminelle*, April, 1909. F. F.

De la prophylaxie de l'insociabilité par la sélection scolaire.—A psychological examination of the recruits of the African battalion shows that a large part of them are abnormals who could have been prevented from viciousness by an education adapted to their mentality. Therefore selection of abnormals in school is an imperative social measure—the vicious should be sent to a reformatory, the distinctly backward to a hospital; but the best treatment for the moderately backward is placing out in a family by a physician. This social measure has been tried by the école des Hautes Études Sociales.—Dr. Granjux, *Archives d'anthropol. criminelle*, April, 1909. F. F.

La loi sociale.—In our modern social organization, there are two classes—those who have, and those who have not. It is the duty of society to correct its manifold inequalities, to put an end to the profound injustice of its present organization, and to ameliorate the situation of its poor and humble. In organized societies, social reform must come by means of the law. The purpose of "la loi sociale" should be the promotion of the general welfare of all, and the achievement of the highest possible moral status for the whole population. But in our present society the law is made to favor a particular privileged class—this necessarily at the cost of the well-being of the whole people. Legislators have no comprehension of their vital function, and promise little in the way of effective social reform.—René Raulin, *Jour. des écon.*, September 15, 1909. E. F. C.

Anti-Clericalism in Europe.—As respects European Catholics, religious liberty is today little more than a fine sounding theory. In Germany they vainly claim the equality with the Protestants, which is assured them by the constitution. In Ireland they suffer from Protestant domination. Austria discriminates them, and her universities are in the hands of Jews and free-thinkers. Real liberty of religious opinion is more nearly approached in Belgium than elsewhere in Europe. The inferiority of Catholics in the public life of Italy is incontestable, while in France the triumph of anti-clericalism is complete. This general triumph of anti-clericalism in Europe seems to be the achievement of an aggressive minority of determined leaders who are opposed to Catholicism "per se" as to "le clericalisme" so called. The masses, while still true to their religious traditions and numerically superior, are purely passive, without any influence on public opinion, leaving to professional politicians the control of public affairs. Democracy cannot come into its own while the great mass of the population are suffered to remain ignorant and inert.—A Parissiel, *Rev. de l'action pop.*, September, 1909. E. F. C.

L'évolution des rapports sexuels.—There is a constant evolution in the customs pertaining to the relations of the sexes. Inheritance, education, religion—all contribute to the moral ideas of an age, and frequently all are equally false in their standard of judgment. Marriage is essentially an economic association; romantic love has comparatively little influence therein. By reason of the increased responsibilities, economic and social, of our modern age, marriage is occurring later in life than formerly. It has become largely a haphazard affair; the mutual fitness of the parties to the union is usually a minor consideration. Education is sadly negligent in dealing with questions of sex. The marriage ceremony has lost much of its former respect and sacredness. The ultimate survival of the institution seems imperiled. Divorce is so easy that the "l'union libre" is even now almost legalized. Will not the future see marriage replaced by a more rational sex relation?—J. Rousset, *La rev. socialiste*, September, 1909. E. F. C.

Le problème irlandais.—The "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland" presents little of the unity which this designation is supposed to represent. Ireland is not the sister isle of the official phraseology. Today she battles, not, as formerly, for her political independence, but for the recovery of her historic patrimony and for her economic emancipation. The conflict is between the local population and the landlord—the odious representative of English domination. However, England at last realizes that the most sure means of repressing the sentiment of national individuality is to remove the principal cause of hostility between the two races; consequently recent Parliamentary legislation has been directed toward the transfer of Irish landed estates to their actual tenants. The Land Act of 1903 went some distance in achieving this result, but it has proved inadequate, and the situation in Ireland is again extremely critical. The Land Bill now before Parliament, embodying the "compulsory purchase" principle, is an effort to approach a definite solution.—H. Marchani, *Quest. Dipl. et Colon.*, August, 1909. E. F. C.

The Significance of Advertising.—There is necessity for widespread and continuous appeals upon the hurry and forgetfulness of the time if public attention is secured. It is not a question of indifference, or lack of cordiality and appreciation. But this is a time of independence, of tepid preferences, of facile change. The advertisers today are manufacturers of a particular article or articles, and the market is the entire country and often other countries. They do not exaggerate and grovel as formerly. A developed public taste calls for restraint and dignity. But advertising is ubiquitous, and the protest of the public has barren results. The billboards reflect the trend toward the city, the interest in rational diet, the nervous strain of fast living. Advertisers, through organization, could easily dictate the policy of the press. However, the course of development has been from servility to dignity, from hysteria to calmness, from narrowness to breadth.—Frederick Dwight, *Yale Review*, August, 1909.

R. B. McC.

The Relative Strength of Nurture and Nature.—From investigations in the school populations of Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Manchester these conclusions are reached. It seems only too true at the present time that the physically and mentally weaker stocks are reproducing themselves at a greater rate than those of sounder physique and intelligence. So far as our investigations have gone at present they show the small influence of environment; work of the mother, an unhealthy trade of the father, and the drinking of the parents seem to have very little influence on the physique of the children. So far our researches demonstrate the effect of a large hereditary factor. The only way to keep a nation strong mentally and physically is to see to it that each new generation is derived chiefly from the fitter members of the generation before.—Ethel M. Elderton, *Eug. Lab. Lec.*, Ser. III.

R. B. McC.

Influence of Heredity and Environment on Race Improvement.—The term "inheritance" should be limited to those physical characters which are determined, we know not how, in the germ cells. Thus defined inheritance is relieved of much that is ascribed to it. It seems clear that our first duty is the elimination of the unfit, that they may not become parents. The great majority of children in America are born normal and with average possibilities. We live and think too much in vicious circles. Bad living conditions, poor nourishment, low ideals breed poverty, vice, and crime. Nature is impersonal. To an increasing degree man determines. The race stock remains practically unchanged. Each generation starts on the same physical level. To realize that our problems are chiefly those of environment which we in increasing measure control gives us a hopeful outlook.—Carl Kelsey, *Am. Am. Acad.*, July, 1909.

R. B. McC.

The Causes of Emigration from Greece.—The conditions due to the meager industrial development in Greece have within recent years been accentuated by a marked agricultural depression. This has made it very difficult for the ordinary peasant to secure even a moderate return for his labors. The marked rise in

prices, which for various reasons has occurred contemporaneously with the decline in the agricultural market, has made the burdens of life heavy. The peasants have accordingly been led to look for some new field of effort where there are greater returns for labor, and have found it in the United States. The motives for emigration are practically without exception of a financial nature.—Henry Pratt Fairchild, *Yale Review*, August, 1909. R. B. McC.

Phases of Social Life in a Country Town.—The following quotations are from two letters received by the undersigned after lecturing on sociological subjects before a chautauqua in a town of the Middle West, this last summer. They are reproduced here, with the permission of the writer, because they furnish a valuable and graphic, and not at all exaggerated, sketch of the social history, in one of its phases, of a typical town of the West.

"Since your lectures, I have thought even more about the social life and conditions here than I had before, and several things have come to my notice that I thought might be of some interest to you in your work.

"E—— is a town of 4,000 and is like the average town of that size in this state, I believe. Few tragedies take place here within a year. In 1909 there have been three and all have been in the 'social set.'

"The first took place in February and these were the conditions that led up to it. Mr. X., a retired farmer of means, moved his family to E—— and started the E—— National Bank, intending to turn over his controlling interest to his son A. as soon as the son was capable of taking care of it. A. was about twenty-one years of age when they came here, and engaged to a little girl in his home town. He was seemingly a very nice, quiet young man and was immediately taken up by the society crowd. Some of us girls noticed later on that he was drinking and soon he became one of the little crowd of young men and women whom I told you of, who drank together and played for money. About this time he married and I believe that his wife, had she known, might have saved him from what followed. The first place at which I saw her was with A. at church (and that was the only time I ever saw either inside a church). The next time I met her was at our Bridge Club and, although she hardly knew a Jack from a King (which was almost a crime then), I thought her one of the sweetest little brides that had ever come to E——.

"I heard afterward that she was a member of the Methodist Church and a great church worker before she came here; but she was made a member of the 'Married-and-glad-of-it Club,' invited to all the card parties, and like so many others seemed to be living only to have a good time. After a while I heard that A. had been leaving his wife at night and was gambling with the other boys and soon that he had been losing heavily. He was now acting as city treasurer and was cashier of the bank. The next thing we heard was that he had been robbing the city and the bank for some time and that he had taken flight in the night. Only Mr. X.'s money saved A. from the penitentiary. The bank has changed hands and one of the young men with whom he played is cashier.

"The second case was that of a young druggist who died suddenly of 'heart-disease' after losing his store and home. His wife was quite a society woman but knew nothing of household duties. She drank and played cards with the 'fellows,' etc. Only a few knew that he took something before his death and was foaming at the mouth when medical aid reached him.

"The third case occurred in June. A young dentist left with an 'affinity.' E. was a church-member and considered an exceptionally good, moral young man. He married one of the girls of our crowd. They have never really kept house since they were married and H. was one of a number of young married women who do not want to be 'tied-down' with children. She seemed to live only for society (which consists of card clubs and card parties here). E. got to drinking and gambling and now it is doubtful what will become of him.

"The wives have had the deepest sympathy in all three cases, but I wonder sometimes if they were not just a little to blame. There may be wives here, but I know of none, who do not play cards and whose husbands do not gamble. I know of several cases however of men who gambled before marriage but quit

before they married their wives, who did not play cards, and have not played since. At the last card party I attended, a young married woman for whom I had had all sympathy before, boasted that she had won twenty-five prizes within a very short time. Her husband had been a merchant and had lost nearly all they had at gambling and was then a clerk in the store he had owned two years before, and she was playing the piano part of the time in the 'Police Gem.'

"From our little crowd of young people who began playing cards together before the girls had done away with 'pig-tails,' one of the boys is a professional gambler who travels from place to place, and another one, I have certain knowledge, stole from certain school funds while he was school treasurer, to the extent that he could be imprisoned, and it was at a time when he was gambling a great deal. He came of a very strict Methodist family and his mother used to tell the girls of our crowd that we were ruining her boy. We thought it a great joke, but I am afraid now that it may have been true.

"I know nearly everyone who lives in E—— and have since your lectures been summing up some of the conditions. Most of the unmarried girls do something to help support themselves. There are nearly fifty girls though, I believe, that are unemployed. Thinking I might not know all, I have been inquiring, but have not been able to count a half-dozen who do not spend a great deal of their time playing cards. Of course I may have missed some. Of those who play cards most know more or less about cooking but I know of only one who could make a shirt waist, and I do not believe that there are more than a half-dozen, if that many, married women who are card players who could do as much. Nearly all the society women and girls have every bit of their sewing done. It seems a sad thing to me that sewing is becoming a lost art with American women. Never was it made so easy as it is now with sewing-machines with every conceivable attachment and patterns in any size with chart, for only a small sum. When women begin to make their own clothes, if that time comes, and I hope it may, I believe they will dress with greater individuality, more becomingly, and follow less the French fashions. . . .

"You inquired after the origins of the present conditions in our little town. I believe that it was not more than twelve years ago that the first card party was given in E——. A number of families played cards in their homes before that, but this was the first afternoon affair where women played cards and a prize was given to the winner. Formal and informal receptions had been the vogue until this time and cards had not been recognized to any extent by E—— society. After the card party of which I spoke, and which was considered a great success, there were very few receptions, and there has not been one that I can recall within the past six or eight years, with the exception of wedding receptions. The woman who gave the first card party had been a quiet, conservative person. She had been an active church worker in the town in which she had formerly lived, was left with some means, married rather late in life a man much younger than herself. After she and her husband moved to E—— Mr. A. invested everything his wife had and the little he possessed in mining stock. They were successful and became one of the wealthiest families in this community. About this time a young professional man and his wife moved to E——. The wife had been a poor girl raised in a city, was strikingly handsome, charming in manner, and very ambitious. I will call her Mrs. B. Mrs. A. became a friend and admirer of Mrs. B. She became anxious to be a social leader. Mrs. B. had the wit, Mrs. A. the money, and it was easily accomplished.

"Soon after the party, a card club was organized, Mrs. A., Mrs. B., and Mrs. C. being perhaps most influential in starting it. Mrs. C. is a member of the Presbyterian church, a woman of strong personality, and the church has been afraid of hurting the feelings of Mrs. C. and her followers and so has been careful to say or do nothing derogatory to card-playing. The result has been that there is more card-playing in the Presbyterian and Episcopal churches than in any others in E——. The Episcopal church is a small and comparatively young church here and was organized by people who play cards. Mrs. A. is now a woman of perhaps seventy years of age, or older, still a leader of society

and doing all in her power against the churches of the town. Mrs. B.'s husband died and she, after quite a career in America and Europe, married a wealthy man whom she met abroad.

"Of course the 'Pastime Crowd' who had been playing *Old Dan Tucker*, etc., at their evening parties soon organized an evening card club, after the mothers had become interested in the game and this was where most of the young people learned to play cards. The way the gambling started among the young men and women was through the old and seemingly innocent plan of the losers treating to oysters or ice cream.

"The Mrs. A. that entertained first at cards has no children but has brought up a nephew. The nephew was sent to the state university, but did not finish the course on account of his gambling, etc., it is said. He is the young man who took the place of the cashier I told you of in my other letter, has been one who played for money with the young women, and has taken part in most of the gambling among the young business men. Mrs. C. has but one child, a daughter, and she is one of the young women I told you of while you were here.

"At present our jail is full, and nearly if not all of the occupants are 'crap shooters.' Their fines and costs ranged, I believe, from about \$25 to \$75, and they, unable to pay, have been placed in jail. Most of the men, I think, are paper-hangers, plasterers, etc. My father's partner is mayor of the city and while he was in the office a short time ago, the father of one of the men in jail came asking help for the wife and family of his son. The family was destitute and the father, who had been caring for them for several weeks, being a poor man was compelled to ask aid of the city for them.

"Women of my class can play for prizes and the winner's name will be in the paper as though she had accomplished something to be proud of, while the poor wretches who 'shoot craps' are hunted down and placed in jail. I would not attend a function where I must openly break the law, as I formerly did, if for no other reason than that I believe in *fair play*.

"This is the week of our county fair, or rather, the time of our annual horse-races. It has been a very common thing for girls to bet among themselves on the races. At every heat each girl will put up a small sum and the girl whose horse wins will take the pot. If there are young men with the party they too take part. This is done openly. There is always a great deal of fun over it and everyone seems to look upon it as a joke. . . . If the young women who are looked upon as leaders bet on the races, is it to be wondered that the young men indulge in the excitement of winning and losing?

"If you remember, you heard a little in the discussions after your lectures, about our pool-rooms. At first I laughed at the agitation shown by some when the pool-rooms were opened in E——. I had played pool a few times at clubs, etc., and can yet see no harm in the game, but I do not think the public pool rooms have been a benefit to the town. I have heard of cases here where men are spending their evenings and earnings there, and whose wives are taking in washing. I do not know whether this is true or not, but I know that it is a great loafing place for men and boys. There is one case though that I do know about. A man twenty-two years of age is married and has one child. He and his wife belong to the younger society crowd. The young man has been in business for himself less than a year and has cleared, I am told by one who should know, \$1,800. He pays no house rent and his other expenses have not been large, yet he has nothing now. Although he has as good a business as his father's, if it were managed properly, he comes into his father's store and asks for money just as he did when a boy, and when anyone wants to see him it is said he can generally be found at the pool-room. He has been a boy that seemingly attended strictly to business until of late."

L. L. BERNARD